

THE

DAFFODIL JOURNAL



Quarterly Publication of the
AMERICAN DAFFODIL SOCIETY, Inc.

DECEMBER
1965

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Volume II

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DECEMBER, 1965

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For the complete current roster of Officers, Directors and chairmen of committees reference should be made to the American Daffodil Society JOURNAL for June, 1965.

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Articles and photographs (glossy finish) on daffodil culture and related subjects are invited from members of the Society. Manuscripts should be typewritten double-spaced, and all material should be addressed to the Executive Editor.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE WILL BE JANUARY 15, 1966.

SCHEDULE OF MEMBERSHIP DUES IN THE AMERICAN DAFFODIL SOCIETY

The Dues Year Is January 1 Through December 31

Individual Annual \$5 a year or \$12.50 for three years.

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or \$18.75 for three years, with one copy of the JOURNAL.

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Individual Contributing Member \$10 or more per year.

Commercial Memberships are three times the foregoing amounts.

A FEW WORDS FOR THE CHAIRMEN OF 1966 DAFFODIL SHOWS

By MARIE BOZIEVICH, *Bethesda, Md.*

Now is the time for clubs and committees to be making plans for their 1966 daffodil shows. With this in mind, a few hints on what to do and what *not* to do may be useful.

The procedure for obtaining ADS awards is simple, and a show must conform to the ADS rules, which have been devised to insure high standards. If show chairmen and schedule-writers are not familiar with these rules, a copy of the ADS Show Manual with all needed information as to available awards and regulations can be obtained for \$1 from the chairman of the Awards Committee, Mrs. John Bozievich, 6810 Hillmead Rd., Bethesda, Md. 20034.

There are three types of awards: (1) those available only to club and local shows; (2) those available only to state and regional shows; and (3) those available to all shows, providing the schedule includes classes for single specimens and three-of-a-kind in all eleven divisions, and has at least five classes for collections of five or more stems.

To apply for ADS awards, a tentative schedule should be sent to the awards chairman. In the case of a regional or state show, a letter of permission from the Regional Vice President should be included. If either or both of the ADS medals are offered, an undated check for each should also be sent.

It is better not to just copy last year's schedule, even though it was approved for awards. Perhaps the members of a club are growing more, or different, types of daffodils than formerly, or possibly a more efficient method of arranging the classes should be planned. At any rate, look at the schedule with a critical eye, but don't look *too* long—get it written and on its way. Changes may be required, and correspondence takes time. This preliminary schedule will be retained by the awards chairman, so make an extra copy.

If the schedule conforms to ADS regulations, the awards will be sent immediately, together with the Awards Information Sheets and a Show Report Form. The chairman of the show is responsible for returning these forms immediately following the show. The Awards Information Sheets are to be signed by the three judges who make each award. It is suggested that the judges' clerks carry these sheets at the show and have them signed as each particular class is judged. Delay in returning these sheets causes undue trouble for all concerned. Failure to return the Show Report Form promptly means the show winners will not be reported in the DAFFODIL JOURNAL.

If the schedule needs correction, a letter will be sent outlining the necessary changes. Here are the most frequent errors and corrections:

The ADS Gold Ribbon cannot be awarded for the best daffodil in any particular section of the show, such as "single stems." The winner must be chosen from among all entries in the horticultural classes, including collections and vases of three, but excluding miniatures. The Miniature Gold Ribbon is selected in the same way from the miniature exhibits.

The awarding of ADS ribbons is not restricted to ADS members. The Carey E. Quinn Medal and the Roberta C. Watrous Medal are the only awards restricted to Society members.

Collections should not be grouped in one vase. Each flower in a collection should be shown in a separate vase.

Miniatures are classified as such according to the ADS approved list, not by inches of height.

Miniatures should not compete with standard daffodils in any class. They should not be shown in a collection for the Carey E. Quinn Medal.

If the show includes arrangement classes, at least one of them must require that daffodils predominate. It is better if all arrangements include daffodils.

If any classes in the show are restricted to members of a particular club, this must be stated clearly on the schedule.

We are anxious to encourage garden clubs to hold ADS approved shows, and want to help those who are unfamiliar with the procedure. Do not hesitate to ask for assistance, if needed. And remember to start things going early, and finish them up promptly after the show!

WHAT 'GROWN IN THE OPEN' MEANS

For show purposes, the ADS requires that daffodils **MUST** be grown in the open.

To clarify: "grown in the open" means planted in the fall in open ground, not in pots or containers, and grown throughout the winter without protection other than mulch.

In the spring, when daffodils are coming to bloom, you may offer protection from the weather as you see fit.

RHS REGISTER AVAILABLE

The *Classified List and International Register of Daffodil Names* of The Royal Horticultural Society may be purchased from the chairman of supplies, Mrs. William A. Bridges for \$1.75. A new supply is now available. Her address is 10 Othoridge Road, Lutherville, Md.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

This message, in order to catch the printer's deadline, is being written immediately after returning from a most interesting fall Board meeting in Des Moines, under the able sponsorship of Dr. Tom Throckmorton. We had in attendance 30 of our Board, and were delighted to welcome 15 members who attended some or all of the meetings, both business and social.

The Board decided several of the topics discussed were of general interest to the membership at large, and would therefore make a good subject for the president's message.

* * *

One of the decisions reached related to the American Horticultural Society's *Handbook on Daffodils*, the preparation of which was last year turned over to our Society. Work has been progressing with George S. Lee, Jr., as special editor, operating under the general supervision of our Committee on Publications. It will be a volume of better than a hundred pages, filled with articles on various phases of daffodil growing, with contributions mainly from our own experts augmented by some from authoritative foreign sources.

While at first it was intended to distribute it to our members in lieu of the March '66 JOURNAL, the Board decided that not only would it be desirable to preserve continuity of our publication, but that there are several matters which normally call for presentation in early spring. So our members will receive the *Handbook* as a special bonus for 1966 membership, without eliminating one of our JOURNALS; in fact, as an incentive to new members, it will also go to those joining prior to June 30, which is our deadline for paying dues by members as well as the last date at which new members can have their names included in the next roster.

* * *

Our 1966 convention will be held in Memphis, with headquarters at the Chisca Plaza Motor Hotel, from March 31 to April 2. Early in the year invitations will be sent to all members. A most interesting program has been arranged, including a visit to the distinguished show of the Memphis Garden Club. For those who wish to stay for Sunday, April 3, there will be instruction in Judging School III with the examination in the afternoon.

* * *

The registration fee for new seedlings was reduced from \$2 to \$1, payable to the Registrar when the application form is submitted. This,

incidentally includes the RHS registration fee also.

* * *

The Board has decided that while those in charge of an annual convention in the name of the Society may solicit flowers from prominent growers at a distance, and include transportation costs in their budget, no similar request should be made for bulbs to be planted.

* * *

Mrs. J. R. Nederburgh, one of our California hosts of last March, and historian of the Southern California Daffodil Society, would greatly appreciate extra photographs (or slides) taken at Pasadena.

* * *

The ADS Committee on Photography would like to prepare a set of color slides on miniature daffodils. Those having slides they can contribute should send them to Mrs. George D. Watrous, Jr., 5031 Reno Road, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20008, for review and forwarding to the committee. Any that are duplicates of what we have will be returned to the donors. As a guide, refer to the official ADS list of miniatures published in this number of the JOURNAL to determine which daffodils qualify for that group.

* * *

Among the social features of the meeting were a most interesting trip (in motor drawn 'land barges') around the spectacular Aric Den Boer Crab Apple Arboretum, a sumptuous Iowa picnic, and a visit to 'George', who put on quite a show for us: on request he printed out a full list of 'pinks' in a very few minutes, and then unerringly answered several impromptu inquiries. He also mentioned he still has a few copies of the 1965 Daffodil Data Bank for \$3. Since he put that book in printed form he has added something like 400 more parentages to his memory, and will print out individual copies of all he knows on that subject for \$7.50.

* * *

This December JOURNAL goes out to our membership at a time when daffodil activity is at a minimum. All bulbs are in the ground (outdoors or in pots), and only in exceptionally warm areas is there any sign of bloom. It is the period of contemplation and hope. There is, however, one operation for which this is the time of all others to perform—namely, for members to send in their annual dues payments. And have you thought what a rare opportunity is afforded to interest one or more of your friends in our chosen flower? A payment now will not only produce a year's membership, but will also ensure a copy of a valuable *Handbook* that will sell to non-members for not quite the cost of our full year's membership. Sounds like an exceptional Christmas gift!

—JOHN R. LARUS

THE EDWIN C. POWELL STORY

By FREEMAN A. WEISS, *Charleston, S. C.*

This seems an opportune time to review the contribution made by Edwin C. Powell to the progress of daffodil interest and development in the United States. As the closing out of daffodil stocks at his Hermitage Gardens near Rockville, Md., occurred 16 years ago, and Mr. Powell himself died four year later, it may appear this review is somewhat belated, since the American Daffodil Society completed its first decade in the interim.

Judging his contribution consists basically in determining how Mr. Powell's daffodil introductions of nearly 30 years ago now rate with the present fine flowers from Europe and from America's upgrowing competition. Our attempt to pass judgment at this time may be premature, since the judgments of today often falter in the course of future progress. Real significance at any time should be estimated in relation to the environment in which each progressive step occurred, and temporary judgments are subject to periodic review. In daffodil history, however, such judgments have sometimes held sway for many years. The variety King Alfred, introduced 75 years ago, remains the principal commercial daffodil for flower production in our Pacific Northwest, which is sometimes regarded as the nearest approach to a daffodil paradise in this country. Fortune (1923), for which the initial sale price was \$250 a bulb in England, has now fallen to 20 cents each. Nevertheless, it retains, together with its descendants that contain some of its distinguished characteristics, important recognition in the breeding of newer daffodils.

Edwin Powell's interest in American daffodil culture and development began in 1922, when this always welcomed harbinger of spring was receiving public recognition in America chiefly as greenhouse-grown cut flowers or as massive plantings in gardens of the affluent, and practically all from imported bulbs. Daffodils had attracted limited culture in home plantings since Colonial time, but had seldom enrolled any confirmed hobbyists in growing or breeding for future expansion. It was then, however, when serving as senior editor in the Division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, that Mr. Powell began a life-long friendship with David Griffiths, then in charge of the Department's first recognition of ornamental bulb culture as a phase of general agriculture. By 1925, and with Dr. Griffiths' encouragement, he had found a special interest in the breeding of new varieties better adapted to daffodil culture in this country, especially for home garden needs. This was entirely a matter of personal interest, not an official duty, and it soon became a full-fledged hobby. During the ensuing years at a

suburban home in Silver Spring, Md., he brought forth his first variety to receive a distinctive name, a large yellow trumpet quite appropriately introduced as David Griffiths. In 1935, at one of the then relatively new flower shows (in the East) devoted to or emphasizing daffodils, this seedling received an award as "best in show" at the Takoma Horticultural Club in Washington, D. C. That was also the year of the first *American Daffodil Year Book*, sponsored by the American Horticultural Society and edited by B. Y. Morrison, another recognized pioneer in this subject in the eastern U. S. It contained an article by Mr. Powell under the title "Breeding Daffodils for American Needs."

By then the daffodil hobby of the Powells—Mrs. Powell (Grace) must be included with E. C. as a constant co-worker in this enterprise—had outgrown the area of a suburban lot, so this production team and all their daffodil stocks found a better home near Rockville, Md. There the Hermitage Gardens grew up on four acres of open ground, including a stream. Daffodil beds continued to expand, first in a plot containing 141 named varieties, each in a separate group, and finally as a bulb nursery with 65,000 seedlings. Various other flowering bulbs were added in the background to emphasize the natural companions of daffodils as spring beauties. Selections from the promising seedlings were exhibited annually for 15 years in flower shows from Baltimore to Lynchburg, Va., being always a prominent feature in shows of the Takoma Horticultural Club and the Garden Club of Virginia. Numerous awards as "best in show" followed, which doubtless aided in the final choice of those meriting formal introduction. In view of all the exhibits displayed at the Takoma Horticultural Club shows it is appropriate that detailed notes from Mr. Powell have been preserved in the archives of this club. They show the parentage of seedlings already formally introduced, others under consideration for this distinction, and special ratings and comments received in the various shows.

There were other daffodil interests in the Powell repertoire besides exhibiting new seedlings. He also presented show-quality specimens of the familiar varieties of that period, always for educational purposes, and apparently never in competition with other exhibitors. Mr. Powell was a much sought-for show judge and garden club lecturer in matters relating to daffodils and other spring bulbs, and always generously contributed these favors. Besides the article on breeding daffodils previously mentioned, his literary contributions included the following: "Daffodil David Griffiths" and "Breeding and Raising the Small Daffodils" in the *American Daffodil Year Books*, 1936 and 1937; also "Eighteen Years' Experience in Breeding Narcissus" in *Herbertia*, 1943, p. 95-101, and "Production of New Narcissus" *ibid* 1946, p. 123-128.

Each of these articles carried illustrations of Powell introductions. With the aid of Walter Gannaway—another daffodil enthusiast in the early history of the flower in this area and also a skilled photographer—Mr. Powell began assembling a collection of color slides to illustrate favored daffodil varieties, including those used in his breeding work and the resulting seedlings. This set of slides had reached a total of about 250 when the Hermitage Gardens period ended.

Between 1943 and 1949 about 64 of the Powell seedlings were selected for formal introduction and were included in the RHS *Classified List of Daffodils* from 1950 to 1961. Most of the names he chose for registration were those of American Indian tribes, individuals, and localities, used to emphasize their American source. Our ADS chronicler (and electronic computer) of daffodil ancestry, Dr. Tom Throckmorton, has already covered 44 of the Powell introductions by this modern technique of systematic recording, and will probably include the remaining 20 as they are brought to his attention. Therefore it seems unnecessary to list all the names and the parentages here. At present only a few of them still appear in bulb catalogs, and one cannot foretell how long they may remain among those sought by collectors and breeders. Some remain in gardens of those who knew the Powells intimately or especially admired the named varieties, and certain unnamed seedlings are still grown for reasons of sentiment. At present Cheyenne (7b) appears to be the only Powell introduction listed in catalogs of both The Daffodil Mart and Grant Mitsch,



—Photo by Walter H. Gannaway

One of Edwin C. Powell's Creations—Chicopee (6a)

though the latter also lists Kasota and Kiowa, both 7*b*, and Oconee (5*b*). Roberta Watrous writes that Kasota was so much esteemed that it was for years "the only thing I could give to people who 'had everything.'" Hiawassee (8) gained at least local notoriety as the progeny of a cross Casandra X Paperwhite, technically (*Narcissus exertus* x *N. poetarum*) X *N. tazetta* subsp. *papyraceus*.

This was noteworthy because it was regarded as a "hardy polyanthus"—a cross between a hardy poeticus variety and a tender, early-blooming, all-white *tazetta*, involving chromosome numbers of 14 and 22 in the parents. It also differed from the *poeticus* crosses with other *tazettas* having yellow cups (bicolors) producing varieties of medium hardiness such as Elvira. The story was told in print that a noted daffodil judge, first seeing Hiawassee in a show, wanted to place an order with Mr. Powell for 100 or more of the bulbs, to which E. C. replied, "Heavens, man, there are only five in existence." At any rate, Hiawassee increased to a larger population and more admirers and it was finally selected as "the best miniature" in the Washington Daffodil Society show in 1964, though opinions still differ as to whether it is properly classified as a true miniature.

Charles Culpepper, another veteran of daffodil history in the National Capital area, and a bulb grower and breeder who needs no introduction elsewhere, writes of his association with E. C. Powell: "All the enjoyment that I have experienced from my hybridizing work with daffodils I owe to Mr. Powell for suggestions, encouragement and help in those years." Mr. Culpepper's acquaintance persists in other than recollection. He writes that he still has a large yellow trumpet, a gift from Mr. Powell, which he has used in producing most of the big yellow seedling trumpets he grows for florists and others.

After retirement from the Department of Agriculture in 1940 Mr. Powell began giving more attention at Hermitage Gardens to collecting and breeding daffodils for open ground naturalizing and for rock gardens. This brought him into correspondence with the Missouri Botanical Garden and Dr. Edgar Anderson, geneticist to the Garden, who wrote that they were seeking daffodils "that would succeed in worn-out pastures, be stiff enough for spring breezes, and be able to withstand late freezes."

It was found that the Powell variety Chicopee (6*a*) "withstood these trying conditions, bloomed earlier than February Gold, and made a brave display every spring." This led to a further exchange of experience and material directed toward this objective, and finally to the donation to the Botanical Garden of all the bulbs not yet of blooming size derived from the Powell crosses intended to produce likely varieties for rock gardens. Dr. Anderson writes that this material was planted at the

Garden's Gray Summit arboretum, and remained there until recent years. He states that they were mostly true miniatures, golden-yellow or primrose-yellow predominating, and that some of the clones multiplied rapidly. "The best of them are similar to the English varieties . . . and have great hardihood as well as beauty of form and delicacy of appearance." Changes in Garden administration and staff made it difficult to care for them as they deserved, but "volunteer help from the Daffodil Society rescued them," though many were lost, including some of the best selections. Dr. Anderson adds that "it seems increasingly likely that an effective way of getting the best of these survivors into proper hands for multiplication and dispersal may at last be found."

It remains only to mention the judgment of another contemporary of Edwin C. Powell in those early years in the progress of daffodil culture in American gardens. B. Y. Morrison, esteemed as the dean of American authorities in this field, regards as Mr. Powell's most important accomplishment his hybrids with or in the *jonquilla* and *triandrus* sections; "they occupied a field that was not then preempted by anyone." He adds that he has tested all the Powell introductions in these groups that were available, and that in his present location at Pass Christian, Miss., they have lived well, but are not outstanding as compared to later introductions of others.

In this conclusion to the Powell story one can only say in solemn accord with Zarathustra (of Nietzsche)—"What is great in man is that he is a bridge, not a goal."

NARCISSUS GADITANUS

By B. Y. MORRISON, *Pass Christian, Miss.*

Curiosity may be a virtue or not, depending on what happens! In my case, the opportunity to obtain bulbs of *Narcissus gaditanus* could not be passed by, and caution was thrown to the winds. This last comment comes from the fact that it is said to be allied to *N. juncifolius*, a species that has never succeeded here.

The bulbs were so tiny that hope sank a little, but they were planted with care in the sunny area where all other species of the group, save *juncifolius*, have done well. A little extra sand was dug into the spot, where there was some shade from a nearby camellia bush.

All of this was done after reading in Alec Gray's invaluable book, *Miniature Daffodils*, page 47, his pessimistic note. To quote: "This need not detain us for long, as it is a rare plant, most difficult to flower in cultivation. It is closely allied to *N. juncifolius*, being the only other

small jonquil with dark green foliage. It is said to be a smaller plant in all its parts, but I speak from the book, as I have never flowered it. The form *minutiflorus* is, one presumes, even smaller still." By now, Mr. Gray may have flowered it, as the above is quoted from the 1955 edition.

In the following spring the leaves appeared, so thread-like that one could only say a prayer for survival. No bloom, but the leaves do not appear to be a very dark green here.

The second spring there was evidence of growth in that the number of leaves per bulb seemed greater, though no count was made. The third year, 1965, there seemed to be a still greater number of leaves, although the count per bulb seems to vary between three and six. The occasion for this note, however, is that one bulb produced a scape, with two tiny flowers, tiny enough so no one can longer display *N. scaberulus* as the smallest bloom, although that species does vary in size of bloom.

At blooming time, the scape was two and a half inches high, becoming three inches later, and the tallest leaves are about six inches at flowering time. The bloom is $9/20$ of an inch in diameter, smaller than a dime.

The leaves do not seem a very dark green here, but they are slender, usually about two to four per nose, and some of the bulbs appear to have more than one nose now.

Reporting on a single instance of flowering may be unwise, as details might be different in another season. In 1965, however, the scape was definitely lower than the leaves, the flowers were held at an angle so that they appear to droop a little, $9/20$ of an inch in diameter and a profile depth of only $1/5$ of an inch, for the bloom alone excluding the tube. The color (Ridgway) is empire yellow for the perianth, and between cadmium and light lemon chrome for the cup. This last has rather straight sides, and not much serration on the margin. The stamens as usual are in two series, the uppermost visible and exceeding the pistil. The sheathing bract that incloses the bloom is almost transparent, and pale greenish in hue at blooming time, withering later.

Flowering at the same time with our one bulb were *NN. fernandesii*, *calicicola*, and *scaberulus*, with *rupicola* still to come.

All were earlier than *N. hedraeanthus* that came on in flower February 20, 1965, another odd species that blooms with so short a scape that the flowers themselves seem to be resting on the earth.

Drawings of each of these species will be shown on the plate prepared for use in the volume to be issued in 1966 as the joint work of the American Daffodil Society and the American Horticultural Society.

HYBRIDIZERS' FORUM

Registration

Members who wish to register new varieties should request application forms from Mrs. Kenneth B. Anderson, 4810 Palm Drive, La Canada, Calif., 91011. The application forms call for the following information about each variety (cultivar) to be registered: proposed name, classification, name of raiser, year when first flowered, diameter of flower, diameter of corona, length of corona, length of perianth segments, height of flower stem, season of bloom: early, midseason, or late; color of perianth, color of corona, variety it most nearly resembles, differences between it and variety it most nearly resembles, and other outstanding characteristics, and parentage. Measurements may be in inches or millimeters.

The registration fee of \$1 for each variety will be payable when the completed forms are returned.

Seed Distributed

As an agent for both C. W. Culpepper and the ADS Breeding and Selection Committee, William O. Ticknor recently has distributed 9,162 daffodil seed to 11 ADS members, some of whom said they would further distribute. Requests came from Arkansas, Kentucky, Illinois, New Jersey and Virginia.

These seed represented 22 crosses, and the parents were Fine Gold, Festivity, Empress of Ireland, Vigil, My Love, Accent, Ballygarvey and others. The crosses were made by Mr. Culpepper shortly before he suffered a broken leg that hospitalized him for several months. The seed were collected by Lyles G. McNairy, who made frequent trips to Mr. Culpepper's garden.

Earlier in the summer Mr. Ticknor had notified members of the Washington Daffodil Society that he had a surplus of three-year-old seedlings grown from seed given him by Mr. Culpepper. Nine members requested these seedlings, and more than 1,000 small bulbs were distributed. A similar distribution is promised for next year, and several requests have already been filed.

From the Hybridizing Round Robins

Dr. Harold King is keeping a bed of seedlings from Binkie x Mabel Taylor (and the reverse cross) "to show visitors the great diversity obtained in a single cross . . . Some were all-white, some with very pale

cups, mostly yellow cups but some pink. Some cups were frilled, but not so much as Mabel Taylor. Perianths were white, through a luminous cream to yellow. One looked like Flora's Favorite with Tunis coloring, having a coppery frill on the edge of the cup. Perhaps the best had a broad, flat perianth of luminous, pale yellow with a white stripe down the center of each segment . . . It is remarkable that these two parents should give so many all-white flowers."

Jane Birchfield reports she has seedlings coming along from Trevithian, Kidling, and Thalia. Eve Robertson says her No. 93 (Thalia x Evening) "finally gave five seeds . . . That's the first, after years of trying, from any of the Thalia seedlings. Last year's one seed from Thalia x Kanchenjunga did not germinate." She also reports maturing seed from a bloom of Rockall taken home at the close of the Asheville convention.

Polly Anderson says, "The most interesting seedling that bloomed for me was a stout little pinkish cup thing I had labeled Hera x Cherie . . . It even had two bells on it."

And from Helen Grier we learn, "In all cases of seeding it has been the ones in the bright sunny locations, without shade until late afternoon, that have been the seeders."

Newsworthy Crosses

Several people have reported seed from doubles Pink Chiffon and Gay Time. Two people reported crosses with Beryl. Harry Tuggle used the pollens of several species on greenhouse-grown Matador with considerable success. Perhaps the strangest combination noted was Jessamy (a miniature winter-blooming hoop-petticoat) x Wanda (a large unregistered 6a).

—ROBERTA C. WATROUS

DAFFODIL SCHOOLS FOR 1966

The following schools are in the planning stage as this issue goes to press. For further information and confirmation of dates and places, please contact the chairmen of schools.

Course I, Madisonville, Kentucky, in April; Mrs. Norvell Moore, 416 E. Broadway, Madisonville, Ky., chairman.

Course I, Mid-Atlantic Region, tentative; Mrs. W. Kent Ford, 118 First St., Clifton Forge, Va., regional vice president.

Course II, Dayton, Ohio, April 23; Mrs. Harry Wilkie, Bellbrook, Ohio, chairman.

Course III, Memphis, Tenn. April 3, (Convention); Mrs. W. L. Bankston, Jr., 5600 Shady Grove Rd., Memphis, Tenn., chairman.

ADS APPROVED LIST OF MINIATURES

DIVISIONS I THROUGH IX, AND XI

5b Agnes Harvey
 8 Angie
 5b April Tears
 5b Arctic Morn
 7b Baby Moon
 7b Baby Star
 1b Bambi
 7b Bebop
 7b Bobbysoxer
 1a Bowles's Bounty
 1a Charles Warren
 5b Cobweb
 1c Colleen Bawn
 7b Curlylocks
 8 Cyclataz
 7b Demure
 11 Elfhorn
 4 Eystettensis
 7b Flomay
 6a Flyaway
 5b Frosty Morn
 6a Greenshank
 8 Halingy
 5b Hawera
 7b Hifi
 8 Hors d'Oeuvre
 11 Jessamy
 6a Jetage
 4 *Jonquilla* Flore Pleno
 6a Jumbie
 4 Kehelland
 11 Kenellis
 7b Kidling
 7b La Belle
 7b Lintie
 1b Little Beauty
 1a Little Gem
 7a Little Prince
 2a Marionette
 11 Marychild
 5a Mary Plumstead

6a Mini-Cycla
 4 *minor* var. *pumilus* Plenus
 6a Mite
 6a Mitzy
 2a Morwenna
 11 Muslin
 2a Mustard Seed
 11 Nylon (hybrid group)
 7b Pease-blossom
 4 Pencrebar
 2a Picarillo
 7b Pixie
 11 Poplin
 6b Quince
 5b Raindrop
 1b Rockery Beauty
 1c Rockery Gem
 1c Rockery White
 2a Rosaline Murphy
 7b Sea Gift
 5a Sennocke
 8 Shrew
 5a Shrimp
 7a Skiffle
 1a Sneezy
 6a Snipe
 1c Snug
 7b Stafford
 7b Sundial
 7b Sun Disc
 11 Taffeta
 1a Tanagra
 11 Tarlatan
 6a Tête-a-Tête
 6a The Little Gentleman
 2b Tweeny
 1a Wee Bee
 7b Wideawake
 1c W. P. Milner
 4 Wren
 3c Xit (hybrid group)

(For Division X see next page)

DIVISION X

asturiensis
atlanticus
bulbocodium (various)
calcicola
Canaliculatus
cantabricus (various)
cyclamineus
x dubius
fernandesii
hedraeanthus
jonquilla
jonquilla var. *minor*
jonquilloides
juncifolius
x macleayi
minor
minor var. *conspicuus*
minor var. *pumilus*
pseudo-narcissus subsp. *alpestris*
pseudo-narcissus subsp. *bicolor*
rupicola
rupicola var. *marvieri*
scaberulus
tazetta subsp. *bertolonii*
x tenuior
triandrus var. *albus*
triandrus *Aurantiacus*
triandrus *Calathinus*
triandrus var. *cernuus*
triandrus var. *concolor*
triandrus var. *loiseleurii*
triandrus var. *pulchellus*
watieri

x = wild hybrid

Members who would like
to file the ADS List
of Approved Miniatures
in a copy
of the *RHS Register*
can cut this page out,
fold lengthwise,
and paste this side
to a page
in the *Register*.

*For additional copies of the list of
Approved Miniatures send 10 cents
in stamps per copy to the Executive
Editor of the JOURNAL.*

DAFFODIL HYBRIDIZING IN CALIFORNIA

By HELEN A. GRIER, *Fullerton, Calif.*

Part II—Techniques

There are some who wonder at the wisdom of attempting to hybridize daffodils in California. Perhaps they have forgotten that many of the original species came from countries whose climate is similar in many respects to that of southern California. Spain, Portugal, North Africa—all are areas of long hot summers and low rainfall during winters which are not too cold. The land bakes hard in the summer sun, and the short hard rains of winter make it an oozing mass, as the rains make sticky the adobe clays of California.

Using this as a guide, many of the earlier hybridists in California used species in conjunction with newer forms from the British Isles and Holland in an attempt to develop varieties more suitable to the long hot periods of drought. In some instances success was attained, though it is in the second and third generations that the more marked changes are apparent, and this will entail a wait of almost two decades.

One of the difficulties which at first glance is not appreciated by the nonhybridizer, or by the hybridizer from a cooler region, is that of the marked differences in blooming periods. The further north one goes the more compressed become the seasons, until in some cases early, mid-season, and late are all represented at one time. In such areas the wide crossing of varieties with divergent blooming periods is possible. Not so in California, especially in the southern part. Here, as the varieties become acclimated, the blooming period adjusts, often advancing as much as a month. This presents a problem which can often defeat one's aims for as much as three or four years.

For example: a late blooming variety may bloom as late as the first part of May when first introduced into this region. Gradually the time of bloom will advance until the variety is blooming as much as six weeks earlier than it did the first year after introduction. Perhaps it had been planned that variety "X" would make an excellent pod parent and a very similar variety "Y", newly obtained from a colder region, would be the best pollen parent. Anything sounds plausible on paper, but the actual practice is something else again. Invariably, the pollen parent will bloom long after the seed parent has withered away. The reason: the newly-planted variety from the colder region will not have adjusted as rapidly as that from a warmer one, and will be retarded. Also, the variety "X" may, in adjusting to a warmer region, advance its normal blooming period to become almost a midseason variety, whereas the other variety "Y" remains a late variety. If this happens, the only

recourse is to re-import bulbs of the earlier blooming variety from a colder region. These will again be retarded and thus bloom at the time of the desired seed parent. This is a means of reversing the blooming periods for a short time and thus ensuring a set of seed from the desired parents. The resulting offspring should have among them a few clones with an earlier blooming quality together with the other desired characteristics. These could then be backcrossed to the earlier parent to strengthen the tendency to earliness.

Another method of retarding the blooming date of a variety is to lift and hold the bulbs unplanted for several months past the usual planting time. This can retard the bloom quite considerably. In this way one can have the variety Binkie, or Binkie's offspring Limeade, in bloom with the late-flowering varieties of Division 3c.

When attempting to retard the blooming periods it is necessary to be especially careful to shade the blooms, as excessive heat or dryness can cause the pollen to become worthless; hard and dry, the pollen feels grainy to the touch and not soft and powdery. To combat the drying conditions, hosing the foliage and shrubs in the surrounding area, deep watering the plants, and shading them as they begin to bud are the methods most often employed.

During periods of excessively dry weather, when the humidity drops to 8 or below (it has gone to 0), further measures must be employed if one would succeed. The use of a misting soil soaker or sprayer is very beneficial, especially if allowed to run all night or day, low enough to be below the blooms. Some members in this area use hemp sacking stretched on frames which are placed around the beds and kept dampened by hosing several times during the day. This screen method is best used in a location protected from wind, or extreme measures need to be taken to prevent the screens from blowing away, carrying destruction in their wake.

Actual pollinating practice is the same as elsewhere. A feeding of 2-10-10 or 0-10-10 fertilizer given to the plants in liquid form at time of pollinating lessens the possible debilitation of the parent bulbs. The plants are kept in a green and growing condition as long as possible.

When the seeds have ripened they are planted immediately in boxes approximately 6 to 8 inches deep. The soil mixture is a good garden soil which has been lightened with sand and humus, and which has had a granular form of insecticide added. The seeds are spaced about $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 inch apart in the boxes and covered with $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch of light soil mix. With each row in the boxes marked, and labelled as to cross number, parentage, number of seed, and date planted, the boxes are placed in the coolest spot in the garden, and the soil, which has been

slightly damp at planting time, is sprinkled occasionally throughout the summer months.

Any time after October 15 the seedlings will begin to appear. There seems to be a relationship between the time the parent bulb begins its fall growth and the time the seeds begin activity. Varieties prone to an early activity seem to pass on to their seed the same quality. This statement is made on the basis of a limited experience and will probably be contradicted by many, but this has been the observation made over several years with several different divisions, and to date it has been consistent.

The seedlings are left to grow on in the boxes for two, in some cases three, years. The smaller species crosses can be left undisturbed for even four years, if a slight additional feeding is given. Bone meal has been the fertilizer used with the species crosses, and occasionally a sludge-derivitive fertilizer has been used, if the case seemed to warrant it.

From the time the seedlings appear until they die down, the boxes are kept damp and as cool as possible. Coolness is important to the successful germination of the seeds. If air temperatures rise above 75° special care must be taken to ensure that the soil temperature does not rise, because if it does germination will cease. Seeds which have begun to sprout may be lost; however, an immediate lowering of the soil temperature will lessen this danger. But, do NOT use ice water or ice cubes to do this, as the shock will be too great. It is better to set the box in a cooler spot, and lightly sprinkle with cool water. In about two weeks germination should again be noticed if there has been no damage to the germinating seeds.

From the time the seeds begin germination until the end of the growing season a check is made regularly on the seedlings, a tally kept on the germination rate, and the percentage for the season for each cross is recorded. For example: Cross No. 3—Arctic Gold x Foxhunter—84 seeds; total number germinated first year, 63. In the notes this is written 63/84. At a glance it can be estimated how many more will have to come up to make 100 percent germination—if possible. This method also helps to indicate which are the better crosses. Those with the most stamina come up better, even to 100 percent the first year. Other crosses may give but one or two seedlings from a like number of seeds.

It has been observed that the first and second years of the life of a seedling are the most crucial. If the seedling lives through two summers, it stands a pretty good chance of living until it blooms, conditions permitting. When the seedlings have bulbs the size of pigeon eggs they are planted out in the ground. The beds are prepared as near one or both of the parents as possible, so that comparison of the seedlings with

the parents as to growth habits, colors, form, texture, and individuality is easy and criticism may be noted.

The notebook is an important item in the raising of seedlings. An accurate account of all crosses must be kept, with all data pertaining thereto, from the time of crossing the parents until the bulbs have flowered and are either kept or discarded. This may take more time than one feels one can afford to spend, but it is of great value and should be done. Commercial hybridists cannot afford the time to be so thorough with their record keeping, which would involve hundreds of thousands of seedlings. Therefore, it is up to the hobbyist to supply, if possible, the missing data which may help other beginning hobbyists and students to better understanding of the problems involved.

The wait for the first blooms from a seedling cross can be said to take forever! Actually it is usually four or five years from the time the seed is sown until blooms appear. However, varieties from Division 1, the trumpets, and Division 9, the poets, usually take at least one year longer, or six as a minimum.

Truly, hybridizing daffodils can teach one patience. It is most unwise to try to rush nature, and should one be so foolish as to attempt it, losses are the result. It may be said, "Have patience and you will be rewarded."

POLLEN STORAGE FOR THE HOME HYBRIDIZER

By WILLIAM O. TICKNOR, Falls Church, Va.

It is difficult to live in the same area as Roberta Watrous, Lyles McNairy and Charles W. Culpepper without developing an interest in daffodil hybridizing. I have fooled around the edges of hybridizing and have planted hundreds of seeds from Mr. Culpepper. I have also bloomed some that I got from Mrs. Watrous, but I have never taken the pollen from one variety and put it on the stigma of another. Finally, I decided that 1965 was the year for this great leap forward.

Pollen, one of the two great essentials of hybridizing, has the advantage of maneuverability. It can be collected, stored, and used when wanted. An early daffodil can be crossed with a midseason or late daffodil, or the pollen can even be mailed to a friend. To be stored, though, the pollen must be kept cool and completely dry in a desiccator, or it will decay. Willis Wheeler was kind enough to send me a copy of an article, "Daffodil Breeding", which he had written for the 1957-1958 *American Daffodil Yearbook* on the mechanics of hybridizing and pollen

storage. Mr. Culpepper showed me his large professional desiccator and discussed its use.

So, on a cold January day I decided to make a desiccator. First, I made the individual pollen holders using Willis Wheeler's idea. I cut up some thin aluminum and folded it into forms two and a half inches square and a half inch high. These forms I filled with plaster of paris and as they dried I made round deep indentations with a seven and a half watt light bulb. When dry these cups were enameled a bright red, giving a smooth hard surface that will show up yellow pollen.

As I envisioned aloud the type of container I needed for a desiccator my wife produced a flat rounded plastic refrigerator container five inches high with a radius of seven inches. It had an airtight lid and neatly held six pollen holders. I took a thin aluminum pie tin, trimmed the lip to half an inch and jammed it, upside down, to the bottom of the container. Then, after I had punched holes in the inverted pan I had a ventilated tray one half inch above the container bottom. Swizzle sticks gave me glass rods for pollen dabbling. I painted the center of these rods bright red so they will not easily be lost in the garden.

The next day at work I mentioned my activity to an interested friend and said that I now needed some calcium chloride crystals or silica gel as a drying agent. He walked to a nearby cabinet and pulled out a number of bags of silica gel that had been packed with delicate electronic equipment. I heated these to take out any moisture, poured some under the tray, and I was ready to desiccate.

The very next day I had a dental date and on the tray before me was a pair of long, sharp-nosed tweezers with the tips turned in a bent L shape. On my query as to where I could buy a pair the dentist produced a pair from a back room and said they were no longer serviceable for his work. I was ready for pollen!

Two weeks previously a pot of *Narcissus caldicola* had shown flower stems and we had taken it inside. The flowers had just come into bloom. I tweezered out the tiny stamens and popped them in to a pollen holder. It went into the desiccator and the desiccator into the refrigerator.

So, between interested friends and a series of coincidences, I have a very effective appearing desiccator and, as it turned out, at no cost. It only remains to be seen what luck I have at hybridizing.

BEGINNING WITH this issue of the JOURNAL, the pages will be numbered consecutively through each volume's four numbers. Readers will note that the first text page of this copy is number 63, since this is issue No. 2 of Volume II. This method is being adopted to facilitate possible future distribution of an index of material published.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE GREEN DAFFODIL

By CARL R. AMASON, *El Dorado, Ark.*

The first time I became aware of *Narcissus viridiflorus* was many years ago when I was studying the list of species of narcissus listed in *Hortus Second*. The description mentioned only that the flowers were green—it sounded like a green *N. jonquilla*, and I was to learn later that it is often called this. Nothing was said about the time of blooming. I made a mental note to try it if I could obtain bulbs, but years passed and no source of bulbs was located. In fact, the only places that I found references to it were in Bailey's *Hortus Second* and his three-volume *Standard Cyclopedia of Horticulture*. Many times as I was using these books as a reference, I would check to see if *N. viridiflorus* was still listed—as though it could escape. Actually I thought it might have been renamed as a wild form of *N. jonquilla*, since making such changes appears to be the favorite pastime of botanists. The *Standard Cyclopedia of Horticulture* merely lists it, and states that it is autumnal flowering. Here was indeed something different! I was interested more than ever in getting a few bulbs, but still the years went by and no source for the bulbs was found.

It was perhaps five years ago that I actually found *N. viridiflorus* on a price list. It was reasonably priced and I included it in an order to the dealer. I received precisely one bulb. It looked just like those of *N. jonquilla* in shape, size, and color. In fact I wondered if it were *N. jonquilla*, and really would not have been too surprised if it had bloomed in early March with yellow flowers. I planted it in a special bed with a few other botanical oddities, away from the other daffodils. It immediately threw up one round leaf, which grew all winter long and ripened off late the next spring, with no evidence of winter injury.

The following year I ordered more bulbs, but received none. The supply was exhausted, and instead I received some autumn-flowering crocuses. (The rest of that story is this: they have done so well that I intend to get more crocus species.) My original bulb did not bloom the second year, but it increased by splitting. I think the bed is too rich, for they have increased and still haven't bloomed, five years later.

The next year I ordered some daffodil bulbs, but no *N. viridiflorus*. When the order arrived some variety was missing, and in its place were some bulbs of "The Green Daffodil." I was delighted. I placed them in the ground immediately, but in a sunnier and poorer spot. They were quick to put up growth, and there were two flowering scapes. Then they bloomed in October, just as they were supposed to do. And the

blossoms were green! Frankly, they were just a little on the ugly side, but like some ugly children they have virtue, they earn a place in the heart. They delight me because they are unique, different, and pleasing to the eye and nose. The fragrance of the flowers is outstanding, and pleasant in the yard, but it would be too powerful in the house. I enjoy them very much, and they have now bloomed several years for me, usually in the first weeks of October.

N. viridiflorus will never be a popular garden flower, and it holds little promise for the hybridizers. It looks very much like an all-green *N. jonquilla* with sharp pointed petals to the several florets on scapes eight to ten inches tall. Foliage, too, resembles *N. jonquilla*, but it is scant, in fact many bulbs have only the flowering scapes to nourish them; I find, however, that it is not uncommon for bulbs to have both scape and leaf. Flowers are usually three to the scape, and have bloomed well even after two extraordinarily cold winters when some damage to the foliage has been evident. So far no seed pods have matured, but the bulbs split freely.

I wonder about using it in hybridizing. When would the progeny bloom? To me this is the most interesting aspect of using the plant in breeding.

I am informed that the source of supply in the last few years has been a major Dutch nursery. I hesitate to say whether the bulbs are collected wild bulbs or nursery-grown stock. Since so many of the bulbs of species are collected in their native lands and as little has been written about this species in European gardens, I doubt the willingness of many nurserymen to give much space under glass to this bulb of limited appeal. I suspect that they grow poorly outside in Holland, most of England, and much of Ireland. They do well, however, in the warmer parts of the Southeastern States. Reports from California say that they grow and bud, and then birds peck off the buds before they bloom. I have had some damage in the winter from the Eastern cottontail rabbit eating the foliage. I have also had rabbits eat the foliage of *N. bulbocodium vulgaris conspicuus*. These are the only species of daffodils I have ever seen damaged by rabbits.

There are three other fall-blooming species found in the Mediterranean area, as is *N. viridiflorus*: *N. serotinus*, *N. elegans*, and *N. broussonetii*. I have never been able to acquire bulbs of any of them, and have seen the flowers of only *N. serotinus*, which were brought to the fall Board meeting of ADS in Hot Springs, Ark., by Mrs. Goethe Link in 1963. She grew them in pots in Indiana. All these autumn-blooming daffodils are usually grown as oddities, having little color or widespread appeal in the garden or house. But I am most anxious to try them on my place, too.

MUSINGS AND MEANDERINGS

By POETICUS

For 17 years I grew daffodils without having any narcissus bulb fly infestation in my plantings. Then came the fly, discovered in a few bulbs being replanted in the autumn of 1964. I wonder which of my neighbors was given or purchased infested bulbs. Whoever he may be, he is probably completely unaware of the trouble he has brought to his neighborhood, and wonders why his daffodils are dying out. Probably thinks he doesn't have a "green thumb." If he had squeezed those bulbs before he planted them he would have discovered the infested ones were quite soft due to the activity of the maggot.

* * *

The September 1965 JOURNAL came out in good time, even including the roster. I wonder, how many hours does it take to prepare such a list? With all the chances for human error it seems remarkably well done. But, believe it or not, there've been rumblings. A few who renewed their memberships after June 30 and missed being included in the roster were disappointed. Understand they've been taking it out on the hard-working treasurer. It's no fault of hers. She's working under orders from the Board of Directors.

* * *

I wonder if daffodil seeds could be grown on sterile nutrient agar in flasks, in the same way that orchid seedlings are produced. Seems worth trying by someone who understands the procedure. If some experimenter tries it I hope he will tell us the results, favorable or otherwise. Perhaps some of the new chemicals would shorten the seed's resting period.

* * *

Did you see the cover picture on *This Week Magazine* for September 5? No, I'm not referring to the girl (Julie Andrews), even though she is a cute one. I wonder what our non-gardening friends called the flower, and how did it happen to be chosen. Rarely would we see a jonquil used in a picture like that. A yellow trumpet would have been the usual thing.

* * *

Let's urge the editors to use more pictures in the JOURNAL. It will, of course, increase the cost but they certainly improve the publication and ought to be used if the treasury can stand it. Perhaps the editors need help in securing good black-and-white photographs.

* * *

The bulb-and-stem nematode (*Ditylenchus dipsaci*) reared its ugly

head in at least one garden this past spring. Let's be everlastingly on the watch for it, whether the bulbs come as gifts or as purchases from domestic or foreign growers. The source of the infestation just mentioned apparently was a domestic one. If such a thing happens to you and the infestation is confirmed by plant pathologists at your state experiment station, you have good reason to make a strong protest to the supplier.

WHAT'S OLD—AND VERY GOOD— IN DAFFODILS?

By MRS. RICHARD N. DARDEN, JR., *Newsoms, Va.*

New growers in the American Daffodil Society are indeed fortunate. Sometimes I wish we could begin again with a clean slate and invest a few dollars a year in daffodil varieties that have proved their worth. In 1955, when my husband and I found daffodils a way of life, we based our selections on pictures, descriptions and commercial displays. Why didn't someone tell us that those gorgeous ruffled cups often produce only one good bloom out of a hundred flowers? We have kept some of these daffodils as grotesque reminders of our mistakes.

Daffodils—like television, air conditioners, and drip-dry fabrics—have come a long way in the last 25 years. No matter how small your garden or your budget, whether you are a brand new bride or an interested high school student, a judicious investment of \$10 can put you in the running for blue ribbons at the spring daffodil show.

You new members are doubtless saying, "How can I compete with Mrs. Doe on the hill, who has grown daffodils for years and has everything?" You have a better chance than you may think. Did you know that Mrs. Doe, who lives on the hill and who has everything in the line of daffodils, has created her own handicap? She has so many flowers that often it is hard for her to make a selection. At a flower show a daffodil bloom stands on its own merit—not on who grew it, or its price tag.

Some of the experts have found flaws in the lovely, expensive Empress of Ireland. Twenty-nine-year-old Cantatrice (in the same class and selling for about \$1 a bulb) is still a constant winner of blue ribbons and "best bloom" at daffodil shows. Thirty-four-year-old Effective, which can be purchased for less than 50 cents a bulb, often wins over the new handsome, but expensive Newcastle. I will wager that ten years from now Effective, with its gold halo, will still be in the race. We have friends who have invested sizable amounts in daffodils of the

2c class. It must be frustrating for a new grower to make a decision here. If your budget limits you to only one 2c try exquisite Ave, which was introduced three decades ago. In the most recent issue of *The Daffodil and Tulip Year Book* of the Royal Horticultural Society, Ave won top honors at shows here and abroad. It can be bought for \$1, more or less, and each bloom is nearly perfect.

Another class of white daffodils, 3c, is crowded with beautiful new, but costly, varieties. Anyone starting a daffodil collection would do well to invest 75 cents in a bulb of that splendid show flower, Chinese White, and perhaps win a top award in the 3c class. Why don't you try it?

Bill Pannill, the popular vice president of the American Daffodil Society, raises most of the best varieties of daffodils, both old and new. At the 1964 ADS Convention he won two of America's top daffodil awards, the Silver Medal of the American Horticultural Society and the Carey E. Quinn Medal of the American Daffodil Society, each for a collection consisting of 24 varieties in at least five divisions. It was interesting to observe that in both of these collections he included a stem of Carbineer, a lovely thing with red and yellow coloring that was introduced before Mr. Pannill was born! It can be had for less than a quarter a bulb. Tamino, of 1929 vintage, appeared in one of these collections and Green Island, introduced in 1938, in the other.

Let us read further. Mrs. Howard B. Bloomer, Jr., Editor of THE DAFFODIL JOURNAL, is a connoisseur of daffodils. She says a daffodil must earn its keep, so she grows only those she considers the best. She was awarded the Carey E. Quinn Medal at the National Capital Daffodil Show in 1963. It may be of interest to new growers that in Mrs. Bloomer's prize-winning group of 24 flowers, the only 2c varieties she selected were Ludlow and Glendalough, both of which are inexpensive and more than a quarter of a century old. She chose these because they outshone the new "status" whites in her garden that year. Her Trevithian is always outstanding. You can buy this variety for less than the cost of a pack of cigarettes. Incidentally, it was introduced in 1927, as was the Coverack Perfection she used. Four other varieties of this collection were more than 25 years old: Kingscourt, Fermoy, Chinese White and Cardigan.

So, for less than the price of a new hat, anyone can start a collection of prize-winning daffodils.

A number of shows are offering awards for collections of daffodils introduced 25 or more years ago. It sounds like a gracious gesture to honor the senior citizens of the daffodil world. Before the lavender and old lace stifle us, let us name some of these grand ladies of the past. In addition to the 15 varieties mentioned above, new growers

might try for the “old daffodil” award by cutting their teeth on a dozen or so of the varieties listed below.

<i>1939</i>	<i>1938</i>	<i>1937</i>	<i>1935</i>
Sweetness	Binkie	Angeline	Blarney
Grapefruit	Broughshane	Coolin	Chérie
	Buncrana	Glengariff	Dunkeld
	Kilworth	Goldcourt	Frigid
	Kingscourt	Krakatoa	Grey Lady
	Limerick	Mahmoud	
	Therm	Velveteen	
<i>1934</i>	<i>1933</i>	<i>1932</i>	<i>1931</i>
Bartley	Courage	Cantabile	Brunswick
Carnlough	Rubra	Milan	Cushendall
Garron	Shot Silk		Mulatto
Greeting	La Riante		
Stoke			
Trousseau			
<i>1930</i>	<i>1927</i>	<i>1923</i>	<i>1916</i>
Cragford	Actaea	Cheerfulness	Silver Chimes
Sea Green	Content	February Gold	Thalia
Tresamble	Dinkie		
	Polindra		
	<i>1914</i>	<i>1907</i>	
	Daphne	Beryl	
		Dawn	

Shades of George Washington! This roster is not at all reminiscent of a 25th Class Reunion. It could easily be mistaken for a list of winners at last spring's daffodil show.

Let us applaud the new and beautiful introductions. Buy, grow and show them, if you like; but especially, enjoy them. Let us not forget, though, that while the computers are trying to establish a “pecking order” in the Kilworth by Arbar offspring, the lovely, sunproof, 27-year-old mother of these remarkable flowers is serenely winning blue ribbons on both sides of the Atlantic.

THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY has informed the ADS it has officially adopted the term “split corona” for all those recent daffodil originations with split cups or coronas. The Dutch, and the growers from “Down Under,” have done likewise. And to make it unanimous, the ADS Board of Directors accepted the same term as the official designation for the group.

MY SQUIRREL BED

By WILLIAM O. TICKNOR, *Falls Church, Va.*

I have read many times that while squirrels will bother crocus and bulbous iris they will not bother daffodils. One squirrel, however, has caused me no end of confusion, worry, intrigue, and pleasure. Three years ago I had seven or eight pots of miniature daffodils that were much too crowded and were not blooming. On a June day I emptied each pot and cleaned up 70 or 80 bulbs. After they had dried off in the shade I put each carefully labelled variety in a tray on my work bench in the basement. Then we went on a two-week vacation.

When we came home we were confronted with a scene to dismay us. Curtains were shredded, lampshades torn, fish food devoured, and sooty little animal footprints were everywhere. A squirrel had fallen down the chimney and had tried to get out at every window.

To my horror (I can't be concerned about curtains) he had toppled every tray of my miniature bulbs and scrambled them completely. In great disgust and with much fist shaking at squirrels I swept up the bulbs. I happened to have a bare spot in the front of the house, bare because it was raw clay that I didn't want to plant in. I raked back several square feet of clay, strewed the bulbs, and shoved back the soil. The next year we had amazingly luxuriant foliage from the bulbs but no blooms. Last year we had several blooms and this year ten blooms with, again, much fine foliage.

This began the game of "What Is It?" The bulbs had included *Narcissus asturiensis*, *N. minor*, Stafford, Bobbysoxer, Little Beauty, Sun Disc, and Lintie. The first two are easily identified, and Little Beauty stands out from the rest. The jonquil hybrids are much alike, however, and I am not sure that I found all of the old labels. Each new bloom requires much consultation, reference to E. A. Bowles's and Jefferson-Brown's books, to an ancient Alec Gray catalogue, calls to Mrs. Watrous, and comparison to other blooms in the garden. Eventually we decide and a label goes on for later digging. This game will go on for years, as some of the bulbs were minute.

I still shake my fist at squirrels because they plant acorns in my seedlings, but that one squirrel (which did escape) had caused us a lot of fun and I am still pondering how well the miniatures have done in that poor clay soil.

FLIGHT OF THE ROBINS

By DR. GLENN DOOLEY, *Bowling Green, Ky.*

Planting those new bulbs last autumn was great fun as always, and I hope all of you had some new variety added to your gardens. I always like to have some new varieties to view. Since the bulbs are all tucked away we can anticipate all through the winter what will be in store for us with the coming of next spring. In the meantime, we can keep our vast interest alive by means of the Robins. For those of you anticipating joining us, keep in mind that this is a letter writing project and it is very essential that letters should be written and the Robin sent on its way without too much delay. At the same time, a courtesy card must be sent to the director. By this means a director can keep in touch with the Robin at all times. Join with us, won't you?

* * *

Those daffodils planted in the fall of 1964 at Edmonton, Alberta, bloomed beautifully last spring. I am hopeful that I can get a complete story on them in time.

* * *

Growing daffodils is a thrilling experience. Last spring, Mrs. Hugh Petersen, Jr., of Connecticut, took a single stem of *N. asturiensis* with her to the convention at Pasadena. This entry won a red ribbon. From Connecticut to California . . . I am sure it was a thrill to have this flower in the California show. She also had the best miniature in *N. rupicola* in the the Connecticut Show. In her report, she states that she kept *N. cyclamineus* for three weeks. This was done by placing the stem in a small glass of water which in turn was covered with a casserole and place in an icebox. While there was no mention of temperature, it surely was somewhere around 42 degrees.

* * *

In the Southeast Regional Robin, the members made a survey of their triandrus varieties. Lucy Christian of Barboursville, Va., grew Acolyte, April Tears, Cobweb, Forty-niner, Moonshine, Niveth, Oconee, Pearly Queen, Rippling Waters, Sidhe, Stoke, Snowbird, Shot Silk, Tresamble and Yellow Warbler very well. Over at Covington, Va., Frances Armstrong had good success with Tresamble, Stoke, Yellow Warbler, Lemon Drops, Silver Chimes, and Sidhe. Silver Chimes is no longer given a 5b classification, having been reclassified as an 8. I am sure it will become a tough competitor in this class.

* * *

Mrs. W. Olen Sheets of Reidsville, N. C., gave a glowing report on her triandrus varieties. In addition to many of the above, Elizabeth F.

Prentis, Johanna, Lemon Heart, Phyllida Garth, and Ivory Gate performed very well for her. In my own garden these triandrus varieties grow exceptionally well and are rated as being real favorites.

* * *

There were a few reports of varieties not growing well. I believe this to be due largely to some adversity of local conditions. Again, a few mentioned stripe infections of their triandrus varieties. The best treatment for this virus is to rogue out all sick plants and destroy them. It is often heartbreaking to part with some favored variety but it is necessary to eliminate sick plants in order to keep others healthy.

* * *

Berma Abercrombie of Palmetto, Ga., reported growing light green yellow seedlings of Orange Queen. This variety suggests new possibilities for hybridizing.

MEMBERSHIP DUES POLICY SET FORTH

YOUR DAFFODIL JOURNAL, contrary to some other magazines to which you subscribe, continues to come to you for six months after your membership in the American Daffodil Society has expired. This has been provided so that members who have intended to renew, but who have overlooked doing so, will not miss any of their ADS publications. If, however, a member does not intend to renew but chooses to resign his membership, it would be most considerate and helpful if he would return his first dues notice with a request to cancel.

We would also be most appreciative of any comments as to why he wishes to cancel, as we are striving to serve and please all members. Constructive criticism would be most welcome.

The Board of Directors, in the meeting at Des Moines, passed a motion to send out dues notices the first of December for the following fiscal year. The fiscal year corresponds to the calendar year—January 1 through December 31. A reminder will be sent on March 1 and again on May 1 to those who have neglected or overlooked their dues, and a further notice will go in the June issue of the JOURNAL. Any dues not paid by June 30 will cancel the membership.

We would also like to call attention again to address changes. They are far more costly than the average person realizes. There is a fee to the Post Office for the undelivered JOURNAL, a fee to the printer for the plate cancel, a charge for remailing your JOURNAL, and finally another fee to the printer for a new address plate. Please drop us a card at once when you change your address.

HYBRIDIZING—FOR THE BIRDS?

By NANCY R. FITZWATER, *Huntington, W. Va.*

I suppose that of the many fascinating aspects of hybridizing daffodils none is more intriguing than the ever-present element of surprise. As the 1965 seed pods were developing I wondered what unusual thing, if any, this season would bring. It wasn't long before I found out.

Close examination of a pod of *Passionale* x *Seltan* and a pod of *Interim* self-fertilized disclosed a rather large, freshly-picked hole in each one. With the aid of my magnifying glass, and feeling somewhat like Sherlock Holmes, I peeped into the holes, and, seeing no seeds, resigned myself to the fact that those two crosses were gone forever. It appeared that my friends, the birds, had suddenly become gourmets, and, deliberately avoiding the wild bird seed in the feeder, had preferred my treasured daffodil seeds! However, a few days later when the pods were removed and examined, three seeds of the former and eight seeds of the latter cross were revealed.

A smile couldn't be suppressed as I mused that some winged mother had successfully trained her children in the finer points of etiquette. My active imagination raced on to a stern mama screeching, "For goodness sake, Irving, don't take every seed in the pod—it's exceedingly bad manners." Thank heaven for mothers—especially those who "train up a child in the way he should go."

All of this proves nothing, of course, except that birds, like daffodil enthusiasts, are creatures of discriminating taste. And I suppose I'm doomed to wonder forevermore how many seeds were in those pods

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BB (Before Birds) and whether it was the nuthatch, the titmouse, the chickadee, the cardinal or the cowbird (heaven forbid!), whose social status in birdland has been heightened by his insistence on the finest things in life!

Of this I am reasonably certain—for one season, at least, my daffodil hybridizing was literally, if not strictly, for the birds!

A NEW PERFORMANCE REPORT FROM ENGLAND

Recently there has come to my attention a report from the Rosewarne Experimental Horticulture Station, Camborne, Cornwall. It is Station Leaflet No. 3, entitled *Narcissus Variety Trials*. This publication (mimeographed) of 110 pages covers the trial period between 1955 and 1963.

H. J. Eaton, director of the station, in his introduction, says in part:

"This leaflet is a summary of records taken from the narcissus variety collection at Rosewarne. This was started when a nucleus of varieties was transferred from the Gulval demonstration centre of the Cornwall County Council on its closure in 1952. Additional varieties having possible commercial value have been added each year, when the price of the bulbs has fallen to such a level that commercial quantities were likely to be available within the next 5-10 years. Over 1,400 varieties have been, or are now, undergoing assessment for their suitability for commercial flower and bulb production in the South West.

"The information recorded deals mainly with varieties which could be of economic importance for flower and bulb production in the open, particularly with data such as freedom of flowering and rate of bulb increase. In the past two seasons the vase life of the flowers under controlled conditions has been recorded and the results of these studies are included."

The bulk of the publication consists of tabular material covering date of flowering, lasting qualities of the blooms, the number of flowers per bulb and the percent of bulb increase after the third year, foliage characteristics, stem length and size, the length of the neck, and significant data regarding the blooms themselves. Following the tabular information are pages of three or four line descriptions of each flower.

The publication may be of particular interest to commercial growers.

—WILLIS H. WHEELER